GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1458
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Management of Wetlands
Bhamre Dr. Subhash Ramrao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Green Tribunal has requested the Government to identify and assess the status of wetlands in the National Capital Region and in various parts of the country and to submit a plan for conservation and management of wetlands in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)& (b) In a number of cases (Original Application No. 121 of 2013, No. 153 of 2014, No. 02 of 2015, No. 501 of 2015, etc) being heard in Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), directions have been issued from time to time for identification of wetlands as per provisions of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 as well as conservation & management of wetlands in the National Capital Region and other parts of the country.

For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry had been earlier implementing two separate programmes, namely National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP). To have better synergy and avoid overlap, both the programmes have been merged in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) with the objective of conserving lakes and wetlands in a holistic manner. NPCA is presently operational on cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments.
Under the NPCA/NWCP, an amount of ?145.65 crores has so far been released to the concerned State Governments for undertaking various conservation activities like survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, de-silting & dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education and awareness creation and community participation, etc. in 80 identified wetlands.

Also, in order to conserve lakes and wetlands in an integrated manner, all the States have been advised for giving high priority for constitution of State wetland/ lake authorities, identification and notification of priority wetlands, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, monitoring and evaluation, and strengthening research-management interface, etc.
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